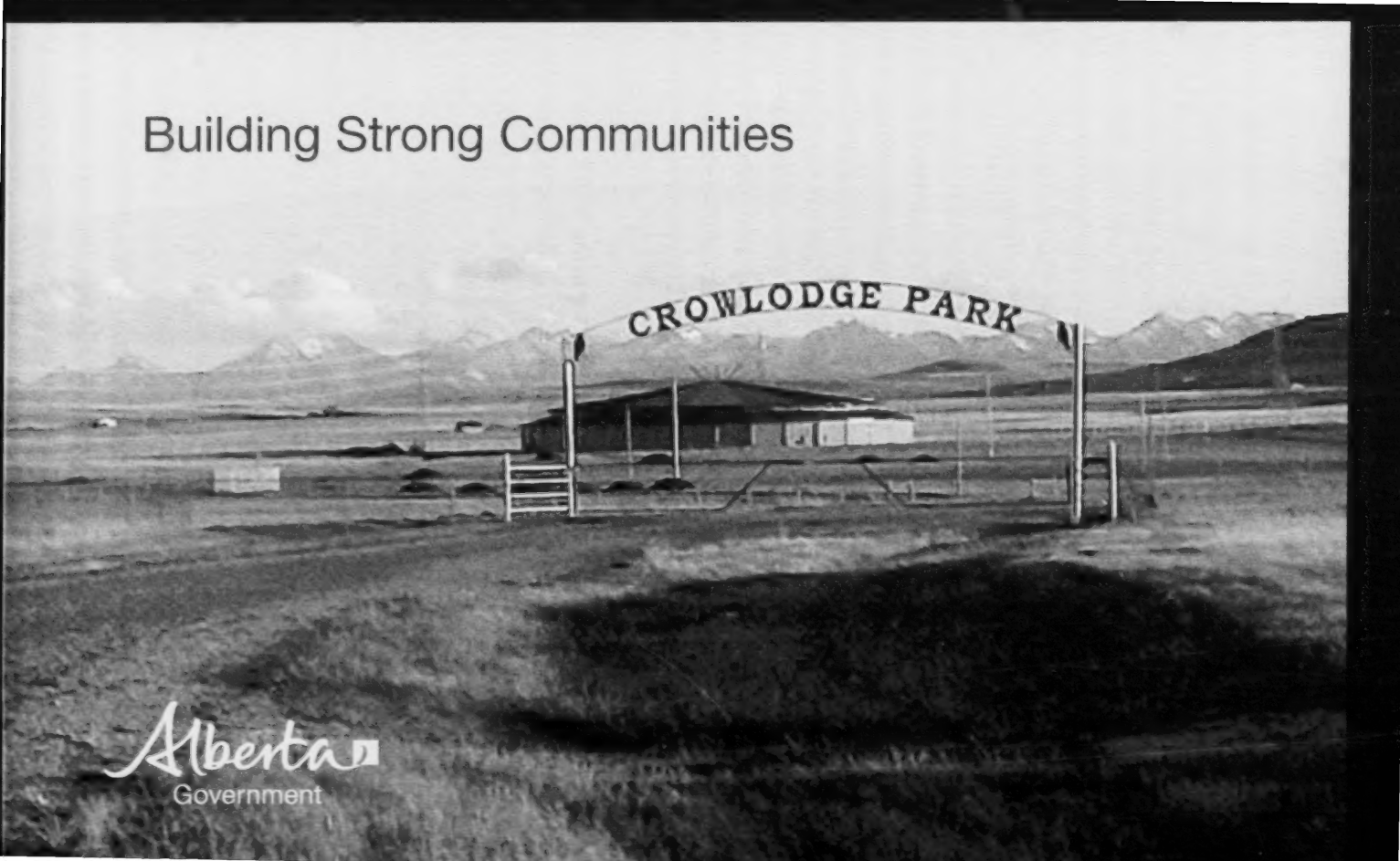
Building Strong Communities



Alberta
Government

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Message from the Minister

On behalf of the Government of Alberta and the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations, I am pleased to present the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) 2011/2012 Annual Results.

Now in its seventh year, the FNDF continues to be an important source of support for First Nations' economic, social and community development projects, and it is another example of how the Alberta government is investing in families and communities.

An important feature of the FNDF is that First Nations set their own priorities and oversee the planning and implementation of the funded projects. This ensures that projects reflect the specific needs and interests of each community.

This government is committed to improving the lives of families and communities, including First Nations.

In 2011/12, the FNDF supported more than 200 community projects which are making a difference in the lives of First Nations people, and I invite you to read the success stories highlighted in this report.

Honourable Robin Campbell
Minister of Aboriginal Relations

Introduction

The FNDF is an Alberta government lottery grant program available exclusively to First Nations in Alberta. It is supported by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nation casinos in the province. First Nations in Alberta may apply to the FNDF for social, economic and community development projects.

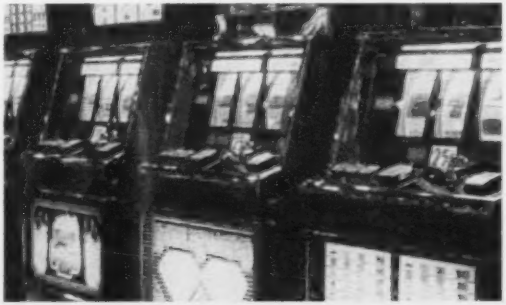
The fund is part of the Government of Alberta's First Nations Gaming Policy. Both the Policy and the FNDF are the result of a collaborative effort between First Nations and the Government of Alberta.

The FNDF is part of the Alberta government's commitment to building healthy and vibrant First Nation communities, and it has been administered by the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations since 2008.

First Nations Casinos

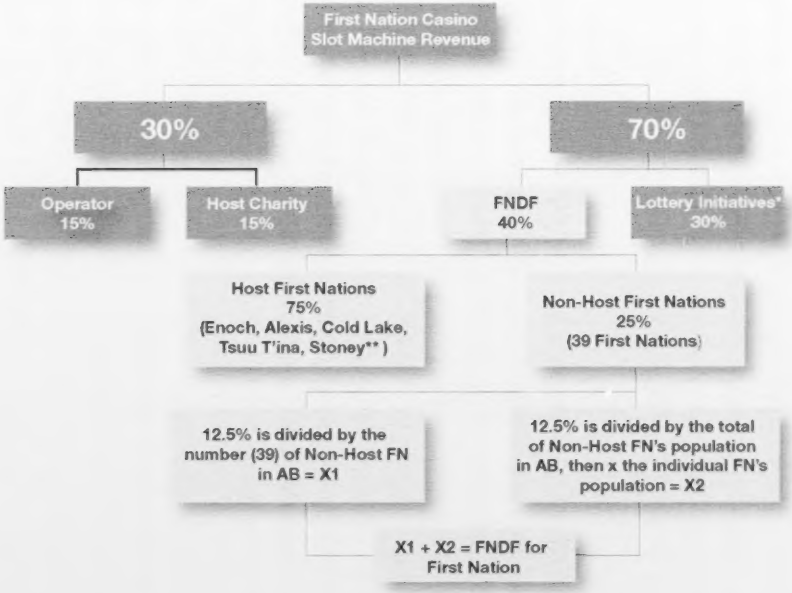
The five First Nation casinos in operation in Alberta are:

- River Cree Resort and Casino at Enoch Cree Nation
- Grey Eagle Casino at Tsuu T'ina Nation
- Eagle River Casino at Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Casino Dene at Cold Lake First Nations
- Stoney Nakoda Resort at Stoney Nakoda Nation



The FNDF is supported by a portion of revenues from government-owned slot machines located in First Nation casinos in Alberta.

Allocation Formula for Grant Funding


First Nation Casino Slot Machine Revenue
30%
70%
Operator 15%
Host Charity 15%
FNDF 40%
Lottery Initiatives* 30%
Host First Nations 75% (Enoch, Alexis, Cold Lake, Tsuu T'ina, Stoney**)
Non-Host First Nations 25% (39 First Nations)
12.5% is divided by the number (39) of Non-Host FN in AB = X1
12.5% is divided by the total of Non-Host FN's population in AB, then x the individual FN's population = X2
X1 + X2 = FNDF for First Nation

* *Alberta Lottery Fund supports a variety of Alberta programs and services in communities throughout Alberta. These include the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and the Community Initiatives Program.*

** *The three Stoney tribes – Chiniki, Bearspaw and Wesley – are considered one Host First Nation*

How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

How revenue is shared

There are currently 44 First Nations participating in the FNDF program. To receive funding, First Nations sign an FNDF Grant Agreement. The agreement includes formulas for sharing FNDF funds among all Alberta First Nations and covering administration costs of the program, as shown on page 4.

- The FNDF receives 40 per cent of the net revenue from government-owned slot machines in First Nation casinos in Alberta.
- Of this 40 per cent, 75 per cent is available to the five host First Nations who have casinos, and 25 per cent is shared among the other First Nations in the province.
- Of the 25 per cent going to First Nations that do not have casinos, half is divided equally among 39 First Nations; and the other half is divided according to population.

Quarterly payments

The Alberta government does not have the FNDF funds at the start of the fiscal year. The funds become available as government receives them from the casinos. Once the slot machine revenues have been verified by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, funds are allocated to the FNDF. Payments are made soon after the conclusion of each quarter (approximately July, October, January, April). Quarterly payments are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement and minimize administrative costs.

Projects can be approved for funding over multiple fiscal years, but the funding only flows as the money becomes available. For example, a $2 million road upgrading project may be approved for $2 million, but it may take multiple fiscal years to fully pay out the funding, depending on the First Nation's allocation.

Accountability

Just like any other grant program, the FNDF includes accountability measures, which are included in the FNDF Grant Agreement:

- FNDF grants can only be used by First Nations for economic, social and community development projects.
- FNDF grants cannot be used for operating or financing costs of a casino or other gaming facility/equipment, or for per capita distributions, or for security against loans or debt.
- Every grant application must include a Band Council Resolution.
- The use of FNDF grants must be reported annually by the First Nations.
- The Government of Alberta or the Auditor General of Alberta has the ability to conduct audits to ensure compliance with the FNDF Grant Agreement and First Nations Gaming Policy.
- The Government of Alberta has the ability to suspend the FNDF Grant Agreement and discontinue FNDF grants for non-compliance.
- While the Minister of Aboriginal Relations retains power for final decision-making, there is a process for dispute resolution.

To ensure accountability and transparency, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations audits FNDF grants to ensure funds are utilized only on approved projects and are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement. The FNDF auditors are also available to assist and advise First Nations on how to meet financial compliance requirements.

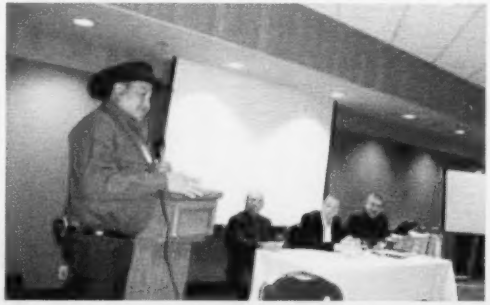
Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects

In 2011/12, the FNDF paid out more than $112 million to First Nations to support 262 community-based and community-designed projects, including:

- Housing
- Schools
- Children, youth and elder programs
- Cultural retention initiatives
- Tourism projects
- Employment and training programs
- Environmental assessments
- Information technology initiatives and equipment purchases
- Recreation facilities

Low administration costs

Aboriginal Relations incurs costs in the administration of the FNDF. In 2011/12 approximately $1.2 million in administrative expenses were charged to the program, representing about one per cent (1.03%) of total FNDF funds. These expenses included salaries, benefits, travel, and supplies for FNDF staff members. The Government of Alberta absorbs the other administration costs, which include office supplies, office space, utilities, computers and information technology services, human resource and finance/ accounting services, salaries of senior management, and ministerial oversight.

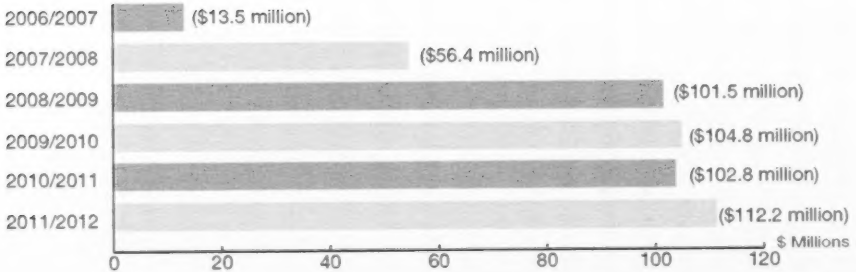


2011 FNDF community workshop

Since its inception in 2005, the FNDF has approved more than 1,000 projects and paid-out more than $570 million to First Nations in Alberta. For a complete listing of FNDF grants, visit www.albertalotteryfund.ca. Click on "Who Benefits – searchable database", under "Agency" select "First Nations Development Fund".

Tipi poles at the River Cree Resort and Casino

FNDF Fiscal Year Grant Funding



FNDF Grant Program Funding by Treaty Area 2011/2012

Of the five First Nation casinos, three are operated by First Nations in Treaty 6, and two are operated by First Nations in Treaty 7. As 75 per cent of the FNDF funds are allocated back to the First Nations with casinos, more funding flows to Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 First Nations.

Treaty 6 – Signed in 1876 – covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan and includes 17 Alberta First Nations

Treaty 7 – Signed in 1877 – covers southern Alberta and includes seven Alberta First Nations

Treaty 8 – Signed in 1899 – covers portions of northern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories and includes 24 Alberta First Nations

Grants By First Nation

First Nation	Total $ Paid in 2011/12	#Projects funded
Alexander First Nation	645,473.58	7
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	5,716,233.95	1
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	501,723.42	4
Beaver First Nation	494,611.32	8
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	499,125.65	5
Bigstone Cree Nation	1,388,588.32	4
Blood Tribe	2,037,583.96	12
Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation	472,065.32	2
Cold Lake First Nations	5,224,623.18	11
Dene Tha' First Nation	772,731.34	2
Driftpile First Nation	726,579.35	2
Duncan's First Nation	397,315.13	1
Enoch Cree Nation #440	41,658,622.79	1
Ermineskin Tribe	968,836.66	13
Fort McKay First Nation	466,466.22	1
Fort McMurray First Nation #468	456,933.47	3
Frog Lake First Nation	778,026.97	1
Heart Lake First Nation	408,360.96	1
Horse Lake First Nation	506,111.54	7
Kapawe'no First Nation	411,690.44	2
Kehewin Cree Nation	647,441.12	3
Little Red River Cree Nation	1,055,692.51	2
Loon River First Nation	438,019.06	2
Louis Bull Tribe	662,875.01	18
Mikisew Cree First Nation	756,539.55	2

First Nation	Total $ Paid in 2011/12	#Projects funded
Montana First Nation	503,628.87	11
O'Chiese First Nation	528,634.33	10
Paul First Nation	647,441.12	6
Piikani Nation	890,107.40	8
Saddle Lake Cree Nation	1,375,121.94	5
Samson Cree Nation	1,473,023.59	21
Sawridge First Nation	420,768.67	2
Siksika Nation	1,366,798.86	3
Smith's Landing First Nation	410,630.46	7
Stoney Nakoda Nation	3,499,230.22	1
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	784,836.66	5
Sucker Creek First Nation	734,901.05	16
Sunchild First Nation	550,446.98	2
Swan River First Nation	533,802.18	4
Tallcree First Nation	529,565.07	8
Tsuu T'ina Nation	28,532,468.87	33
Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake First Nation #128	755,934.02	1
Whitefish Lake First Nation	700,250.76	3
Woodland Cree First Nation	511,710.63	1
Total	**$112,841,572.50**	**262**

Community Outreach

Samson Cree Nation children on family field trip

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations hosted its annual FNDF community workshop in September 2011.

The FNDF community workshop was held at the Stoney Nakoda Resort and Casino in September 2011. The workshop, which featured information sessions on writing proposals and budgets, completing the FNDF grant application, and the role of FNDF Coordinators, attracted 65 participants, whose feedback will be used in the planning of future workshops.

FNDF staff meets regularly with First Nations to provide information, advice and assistance in planning for the use of FNDF grants so that they work best for First Nations communities. Specific assistance and advice can relate to any aspect of the program, including:

- Using FNDF within the terms of the FNDF Grant Agreement;
- Identifying community priorities;
- Completing funding applications;
- Reporting, auditing and other requirements of the First Nations; and
- managing community planning/development.

Success Story

Heart Lake Community Centre

By providing a location for social activities, training and economic development initiatives, Heart Lake First Nation's new community centre is helping to enhance community spirit and support the First Nation's vision for future growth. In 2011/12, $408,361 of FNDF funding was used to complete the construction of the building.

Located in the heart of the community, the community centre features a large meeting area for community and social activities as well as smaller spaces for educational upgrading and occupational and safety training programs that had previously been conducted in Lac La Biche and Edmonton. The programs are focused on the construction and oil and gas sectors, with the goal of increasing employment opportunities for community members both on and off reserve. The building is also used by the community health program, which leases space for health promotion courses.

In addition, the community centre houses the offices of the RCMP and the staff of the Heart Lake Group of Companies, including Heart Lake Construction, and the Heart Lake Truck Stop, which continues to be an important part of the First Nation's growing economic ventures.

Success Story

Kapawe'no Condominium Complex

"The First Nations Development Fund has been a great source of support for our First Nation. Through the program, we have been able to supplement our resources and other sources of funding to build a six-plex that is providing new homes for families in our communities."

Kapawe'no Chief Frank Thomas Halcrow

In response to a growing demand for affordable rental housing, Kapawe'no First Nation used FNDF funds in 2011/12 to build a new six-plex condominium complex that is providing families in the community with a safe and secure place to live.

Kapawe'no First Nation, located 30 km northeast of High Prairie, chose a six-plex because of its functional and affordable design. The project was jointly funded by the FNDF and Canada's Economic Action Plan Housing Program. FNDF contributed $204,591 to the project, which was used to cover costs for engineering contracts, utilities installations, and construction.

Thanks to the hard work of Kapawe'no community members, construction of the building was completed in December 2011 and residents moved in May 2012. Five families are currently living in the complex, with one unit set aside as a communal space for birthday parties and other celebrations.

The project has become a source of pride both for residents and community members, who expect that it will bring many long-term benefits to the First Nation.

Success Story

Piikani Nation Powwow Arbor

On June 21, 2012, the Piikani Nation celebrated National Aboriginal Day with the grand opening of its new Powwow Arbor.

The First Nation, a member of Treaty 7 and located 60 kilometers west of Lethbridge, used $300,000 in FNDF funding to construct the building, which has provided the community with a place to host powwows and other recreational and social gatherings.

The need for the arbor was recognized by many in the community, including members of the Piikani Elders Society, who participate in events and provide cultural and spiritual guidance to participating organizations.

The building, which measures 200 feet in diameter and features artificial turf and interlocking wood siding, was completed by local journeymen and 15 Piikani Nation students, who were part of an apprenticeship program designed to help First Nation youth gain the skills necessary for careers in the construction industry. The bleachers, which seat up to 2,300 people, were constructed by local welders.

The arbor has allowed the Piikani to expand their cultural activities, and the community hopes it will help strengthen relationships with other First Nations, who can now be invited to attend events.

The first event held at the arbor was a powwow competition hosted by the Piikani Nation's youth council, which featured over 600 students from surrounding schools.

Success Story

Red Crow Community College

Housed in a former residential school on the Blood reserve in southern Alberta, Red Crow Community College is a community owned and operated post-secondary institution that has been providing First Nation students with educational opportunities since 1986.

Named for Chief Red Crow, who led the Blood Tribe in the signing of Treaty 7 in 1877, the college was originally established by the Blood Chief and Council as a place for adult upgrading; since that time, it has grown to become one of the leading tribal colleges in North America, offering a variety of diploma, degree and masters programs.

Tribal colleges combine Western and traditional knowledge, and Red Crow gives community members who would otherwise not seek education outside of their traditional surroundings a place to pursue their educational and career goals.

Vice President of Student Services Henry Big Throat

Greta Many Bears

Since 2009 the college has used FNDF grants for a variety of infrastructure and educational programs; in 2012, a total of $163,483 in funding was given to 22 students for their tuition, books and living expenses, making it possible for them to continue their post-secondary education—at the college and abroad—in programs such as law, dentistry, arts and sciences.

"Students are given the opportunity to enter post-secondary education that would not have been able to if it was not for these FNDF dollars," said Henry Big Throat, Vice President of Student Services.

Greta Many Bears is a Red Crow student and one of the beneficiaries of FNDF grants.

Greta is enrolled in the four-year Kainai Studies program and has focused part of her studies on gathering knowledge on hide tanning. Already accomplished at making drums, rattles, and beadwork, skills which were taught to her by her late parents, Dan and Ada Weasel Moccasin, Greta enrolled in a hide tanning class to enhance her knowledge. Throughout the class, she explored modern techniques and talked to elders about traditional methods. Greta now uses

her knowledge to teach tanning and expand her craft business. Upon graduation, Greta hopes to enroll in the college's Kainai Studies master's program.

"Kainai Studies has given me the opportunity to learn and experience traditional Blackfoot knowledge and practice. Our classroom lectures are enhanced and embodied by the culmination of historic site visits, plant identification, harvest and storytelling during field studies. It's an experience I could not get anywhere but at Red Crow College."

- Greta Many Bears

Success Story

Samson Cree Nation – Pigeon Lake Satellite Office

In June 2011 the Pigeon Lake Satellite Office gave youth from the community the opportunity to travel to Edmonton to attend the Dreamspeakers Festival and meet cast members from the hit series' Blackstone and Twilight.

"I'm happy to see that a portion of our FNDF grant was used to support the Pigeon Lake office, and we'll continue to allocate funding to it."

– Samson Cree Chief Yellowbird

Samson Cree Nation youth

The Pigeon Lake 138a reserve—located southwest of Edmonton—is home to members of the Ermineskin Tribe, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation, and Samson Cree Nation.

Since 2006, the reserve's Pigeon Lake satellite office has delivered programs and services to families residing in and around the community who often face barriers, such as access to transportation, that prevent them from fully participating in on-reserve activities. Programs and services provided through the satellite office include family wellness and parenting workshops, and weekly recreational activities like family field trips for swimming, hockey, or cultural celebrations. The office also has a weight room and gymnasium where community members can organize extracurricular activities for youth.

In 2011/12 the Pigeon Lake Satellite Office used $91,357 in FNDF funds to hire two program staff and cover operating expenses and food bank purchases.

Success Story

Swan River Youth Program

The Swan River Youth Program has provided coordinated, safe and structured recreational activities for the young people of Swan River First Nation since 2008. Through activities such as hockey, baseball, swimming and skiing, as well as a drumming group and a summer cultural camp, the program helps promote mental, physical and spiritual well-being by giving youth socializing opportunities.

The program, which is run by a coordinator, with help from community volunteers, has been fully funded by the FNDF since its inception, and in 2011/12 approximately $89,044 was provided to the First Nation for program operations. Funds were also used to open a recreation centre where youth can gather to play pool, air hockey, video games, exercise, or practice drumming.

Since its start, organizers have seen annual increases in the number of youth participating in the program, which has become a vital source of support for the youth and future leaders of the community.

Swan River First Nation Recreation Centre

How to Apply for FNDF Grants

Recognized Alberta First Nation Band Councils are eligible to apply to the FNDF. The criteria for participating in the FNDF were determined in consultation with First Nations in Alberta.

Grant applications must include:

1. Completed and signed application
2. Detailed project description
3. Detailed project funding/budget information
4. Band Council Resolution

Application Deadline

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

To get a copy of the application and FNDF Grant Agreement, or for further assistance, contact:

Alberta Aboriginal Relations
20th Floor Commerce Place
10155 – 102 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8
Phone: 780-427-8407
Fax: 780-427-4019

To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial **310-0000**.

The FNDF application form is also available online at www.aboriginal.alberta.ca. Click on First Nations Relations, then on First Nations Development Fund.

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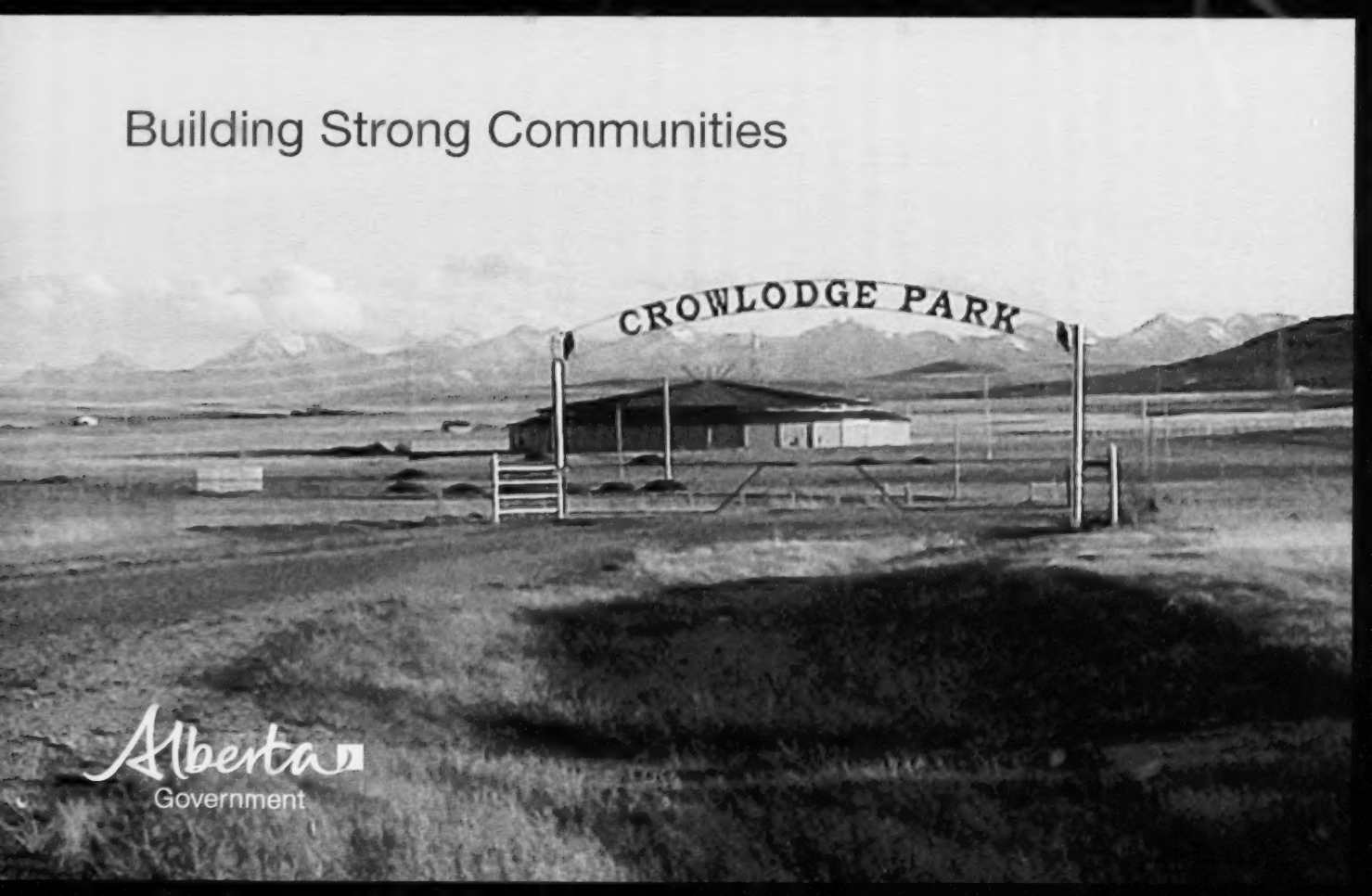

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